RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 11th August, 2005/20 Sravana, 1927 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

DISPENSING WITH QUESTION HOUR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, a request has been received by me to suspend the Question Hour to take up a Motion under Rule 168 of the Rules of Procedure, to enable discussions on the Motion relating to the Nanavati Commission Report and Action Taken thereon by the Government.

I have agreed to the request after consulting the Government, Leaders of other political parties and groups and admitted the Motion which reads as:—

"That this House urges upon the Government to modify the Action Taken Report on the Justice Nanavati Commission of Inquiry and calls upon the Government to take action against the persons indicted by the aforesaid Commission."

This will not be treated as a precedent.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Road link to Myanmar

*261. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to take initiative in extending road-links to Myanmar across the North-Eastern States according to the 'look east' policy;

(b) if so, the response received from other countries; and

(c) if not, whether any other similar programme is being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Government of India is undertaking a variety of cross-border projects with a view to improving connectivity

between the North-Eastern States of India and Myanmar. Expansion of road links between the two countries constitutes an important aspect of these initiatives.

In 2001, Government of India upgraded the 160 km. long Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo in Myanmar which links India and Myanmar through the Tamu-Moreh (Manipur) border point. The Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo road was used during the first India-ASEAN car rally flagged off by the Prime Minister from Gawahati in November 2004. In addition, Government of India is committed to improving road connectivity at Zowkhathar (Mizoram)-Rhi, the second border trade point along the India-Myanmar border, by upgrading the Rhi-Tidm and Rhi-Falam roads in Myanmar.

Discussions are also underway for building a Trilateral Highway from Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand *via* Bagan in Myanmar. This would provide connectivity to North-East India up to Thailand and beyond to other ASEAN countries.

Further, the Kaladan Multi-modal transport project which is expected to be implemented soon seeks to connect Indian ports on the eastern coast with Mizoram through a combination of sea, inland waterway and highway connections. The highway component of the project would connect Kaletwa in Myanmar with the National Highway 54 at Nalkawn in Mizoram.

The Myanmar Government has been cooperating with India on the above road projects. Thailand, which is involved in the Trilateral Highway project, is also keen to implement it.

Directors in Neyveli Lignite Corporation

*262. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Board of Directors of Public Sector Undertakings are to consist of 50 per cent directors and non executive directors but in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) there was only one independent director on its board as has been reported by C & AG in its report No.4 of 2003 (PSUs);